



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Thursday, December 9, 2004

**CONTACT:**

Governor's Office  
Shareese N. DeLeaver  
Henry P. Fawell  
(410) 974.2316  
Maj. Charles Kohler  
(410) 576-6179

**MARYLAND RECOGNIZES EMPLOYERS OF GUARD AND RESERVE**

**BALTIMORE** – The Maryland Committee for Employer Support for Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is hosting a salute to employers luncheon on Friday 11:30 a.m. at the Catonsville Armory. Employers are being recognized for policies and practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve and to acknowledge the sacrifice that employers must make to hold the jobs of deploying Guardsmen and Reservists.

“Giving our Citizen-soldiers and airmen piece of mind that their jobs will be waiting for them when they return is critical to victory in our global war on terror,” said Gov. Ehrlich. I want to recognize the employers who are making sacrifices in order to ensure the safety of our nation and state.”

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization. They provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the Department of Defense to ensure our national security.

The nation's Ready Reserve components comprise approximately 46 percent of our total available military manpower, excluding retirees. The current National Defense Strategy indicates that the National Guard and Reserve, while decreasing in size, will be full partners in the fully integrated Total Force. Our Reserve forces will spend more time away from the workplace defending the nation, supporting a demanding operations tempo and training to maintain their mission readiness.

###

**Note: The media invited to attend and ESGR committee members will be available for interview (Catonsville Armory, 130 Mellor Ave, Catonsville, Md. 21228**